

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An isolated DNA molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) DNA encoding a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 417 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) DNA encoding a protein comprising ~~amino acids 1 through 411 of SEQ ID NO: 6~~ an amino acid sequence that is at least about 99% identical to amino acids 1 through 417 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the polypeptide is capable of inducing apoptosis and identity is determined using the GAP computer program.

2 – 5 (canceled)

6. (original) A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 1.

7 – 9 (canceled)

10. (original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 6.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A process for preparing a protein having an amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 1 through 417 of SEQ ID NO: 2, or ~~amino acids 1 through 411 of SEQ ID NO: 6~~ a protein comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 99% identical to amino acids 1 through 417 of SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 10 under conditions promoting protein expression.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 through 417 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least about 99% identical to amino acids 1 through 417 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the polypeptide is capable of inducing apoptosis and the percent identity is calculated using the GAP computer program amino acids 1 through 411 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

17-19. (canceled)

20. (withdrawn) An antibody immunoreactive with AIR.

21. (withdrawn) The antibody of claim 20 which is a monoclonal antibody.

22. (canceled).

23. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising amino acids x1 to x2 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein x1 is any one of amino acids 1 to 29, inclusive, and x2 is any one of amino acids 190 to 200, inclusive, and fragments of the polypeptide, wherein the fragments are capable of inhibiting apoptosis.

24. (previously presented) An isolated DNA encoding a polypeptide selected from the group of consisting of polypeptides comprising amino acids x1 to x2 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein x1 is any one of amino acids 1 to 29, inclusive, and x2 is any one of amino acids 190 to 200, inclusive, and fragments of the polypeptides wherein the fragments are capable of inhibiting apoptosis.

25. (canceled).

26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein.

28. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 27 wherein the polypeptide is linked to an Fc region.

29. (currently amended) An isolated DNA molecule ~~encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2~~ comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

30. (canceled).

31. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide having an extracellular domain comprising amino acid residues 1 through 199 of SEQ ID NO: 2. or a fragments thereof, wherein the fragment is capable of inducing apoptosis.

32. (previously presented) A fusion protein comprising the polypeptide of claim 31.

33. (previously presented) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 through 411 of SEQ ID NO: 6, or a fragment thereof, wherein the fragment is capable of inducing apoptosis.

34. (previously presented) The DNA of claim 33 wherein the fragment comprises amino acids 31 through 190 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

35. (currently amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the protein is capable of inducing apoptosis.

36. (previously presented) An isolated DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 5.

37. (currently amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising the DNA molecule of claim 33 or claim 35.

38. (currently amended) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector ~~comprising DNA~~ according to claim ~~33~~ 37.

39. (currently amended) A process for preparing a protein having an amino acid sequence ~~of comprising~~ amino acids 1 through 411 of SEQ ID NO: 6 or a fragment thereof, comprising culturing a host cell containing a vector comprising the DNA of claim 33.

40. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, or a fragment thereof, wherein the fragment is capable of inducing apoptosis.

41. (previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 40 wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acids 31 through 190 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

42. (previously presented) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of claim 40.

43. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the polypeptide is capable of inducing apoptosis.